## REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9 and 10 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 3-6 have been amended. Claims 9 and 10 have been presented herewith.

### Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons as stated on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The Examiner has asserted that it is unclear as to what Applicant regards as "a character column in one line". As emphasized beginning on page 6 of the Amendment dated July 10, 2006, as described beginning on page 1, line 24 of the Substitute Specification with respect to Fig. 8, a character column is input to preprocessor 802 (102 in Fig. 1), and the character column understandably includes a plurality of sequential characters including text, symbols and punctuation.

In an effort to improve claim language to be in better compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, the "character column" of the claims has been changed to "a series of characters". With respect to Fig. 8 of the present application, preprocessor 802 may be broadly considered as having a series of characters input thereto.

In an effort to further clarify this matter, a series of characters of one line as including a recurrent string pattern and text characters is shown in the following sketch.

a series of characters of one line



one of the recurrent
string pattern

one of the recurrent
string pattern

symbols

a recurrent string pattern

text characters
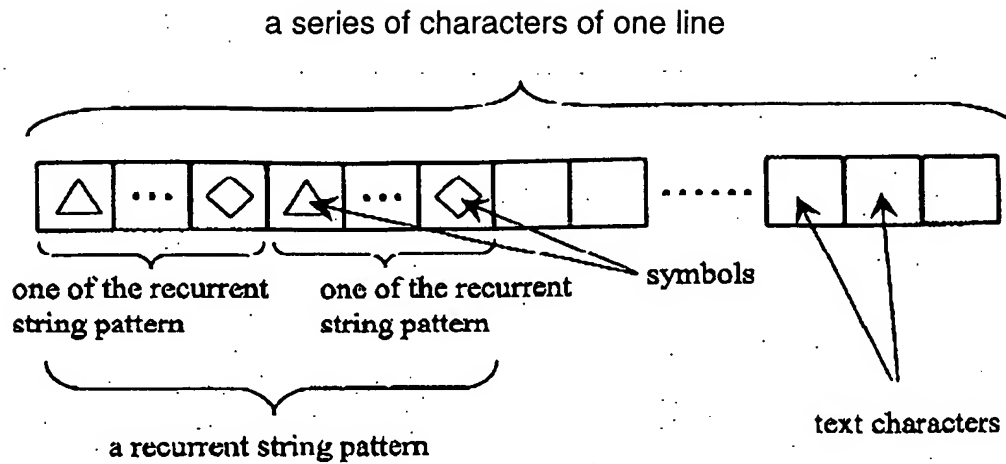
As shown in the sketch, the recurrent string pattern includes a plurality of strings each including a plurality of kinds of symbols. Although the scope of claim 1 should not be limited in view of the above noted sketch, the sketch should help to further understanding of claim 1.

Regarding claim 4, as shown in Fig. 6, symmetrical patterns are included at the beginning and end of the series of characters of one line. These symbol character intervals from the series of characters that have been detected as symmetrical patterns are deleted. Although the scope of claim 4 should not necessarily be limited, Fig. 6 should help further understanding of claim 4.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and respectfully urges the Examiner to withdraw this rejection for at least the above reasons.

## Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Yamada reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,411,931). This rejection, insofar as it may pertain to the presently pending claims, is traversed for the following reasons.

The voice synthesis apparatus of claim 1 includes in combination among other features a first detection module "that detects a paragraph section line having a recurrent string pattern and text characters in a series of characters of one line, wherein the recurrent string pattern comprises a plurality of strings each including a plurality of kinds of symbols, and wherein a number of symbols to be detected in one of the recurrent string patterns is sequentially incremented up to five".

Applicant respectfully submits that the Yamada reference as relied upon does not disclose a detection module that detects a paragraph section line having a recurrent string pattern, wherein a number of symbols to be detected in one of the recurrent string patterns is sequentially incremented up to five. The Yamada reference does not recognize that most repetition patterns can be detected if approximately five characters are provided as an upper limitation. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the voice synthesis apparatus of claim 1 distinguishes over the Yamada reference as relied upon, and that this rejection, insofar as it may pertain to claims 1-3, is improper for at least these reasons.

## Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 4-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Yamada reference in view of the Baum reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,256,610). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 4 has been amended to be dependent upon claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that the Baum reference as secondarily relied upon does not overcome the above noted deficiencies of claim 1. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claims 4-6 would not have been obvious in view of the prior art as relied upon by the Examiner taken singularly or together for at least these reasons.

## Claims 9 and 10

The voice synthesis apparatus of claim 9 includes in combination among other features a detection module "that deletes the paragraph section line from the series of characters so that all of the series of characters remain except for the paragraph section line"; and a voice synthesis module "that performs voice synthesis of all of the series of characters remaining after deletion of the paragraph section line by the detection module". As further featured, "the paragraph section line marks a boundary between paragraphs of the text, and the recurrent string pattern includes a plurality of strings each having a plurality of kinds of symbol characters".

The Examiner has apparently interpreted the recurrent string patterns at the top and bottom of section 22 in Fig. 3 of the Yamada reference as paragraph section lines.

However, these recurrent string patterns do not mark boundaries between paragraphs of text. More particularly, these recurrent string patterns are "no conversion indicator data" which is indicative of and bounds series of texts that will not be converted by voice synthesis. That is, all of section 22 including the recurrent strings and the text representing sender information of the electronic mail is deleted. The Yamada reference thus does not delete a paragraph section line from a series of characters "so that all of the series of characters remain except for the paragraph section line", and so that a voice synthesis module "performs voice synthesis of all of the series of characters remaining after deletion of the paragraph section line". Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claims 9 and 10 distinguish over and would not have been obvious in view of the prior art as relied upon by the Examiner for at least these reasons.

## Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the corresponding rejections, and to pass the claims of the present application to issue, for at least the above reasons.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.
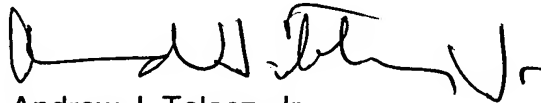
Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant hereby

petitions for an extension of two (2) months to March 31, 2007, for the period in which

to file a response to the outstanding Office Action. The required fee of $450.00 should

be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and

future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit

any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

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